

**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment**

**Operator:** Continental Resources, Inc.  
**Well Name/Number:** Sisler State 1-16H  
**Location:** NW NE Section 16 T22N R57E  
**County:** Richland, **MT;** **Field (or Wildcat)** W/C

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: 35-40 days drilling time for a single lateral horizontal Upper Bakken Shale Formation test.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, triple derrick drilling rig to drill a vertical hole to Lodgepole. Kick off and drill a Upper Bakken Shale Formation. 14,920' MD/10,218' TVD /single lateral horizontal well test.

Possible H<sub>2</sub>S gas production: H<sub>2</sub>S gas production is slight (Mississippian Formations).

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area in the area of review.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

- ☒ Air quality permit (AQB review)
- ☐ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas
- ☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: No special concerns, proper BOP stack should mitigate any concerns. (BOP's 5,000 psig annular, pipe and blind rams) rule 36.22.1014. No concerns. If there are no gas gathering systems in the area, associated sweet gas and H<sub>2</sub>S gas can be flared under Board Rule 36.22.1220.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Yes, oil based invert drilling fluids to drill vertical pilot hole and intermediate casing string hole and saltwater to drill horizontal lateral. Surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater drilling fluids.

High water table: Possible high water table in the area of review. Localized spring nearby.

Surface drainage leads to live water: None, closest drainage is Fox Creek, about 1/2 of a mile to the northeast.

Water well contamination: No, closest water wells are in section 10 to the northeast from this location. Depth of deepest stockwater well is 205'. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater. Will set 1790' of surface casing will be set and cemented to surface. (Rule 36.22.1001)

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy silty clay soils.

Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainage in the area of review.

Mitigation:

- ☐ Lined reserve pit
- ☒ Adequate surface casing
- ☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage
- ☒ Closed mud system
- ☒ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

X Other: Closed loop mud system with lined cuttings pit will be utilized.

Comments: 1790' of surface casing cemented to surface is adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used on surface hole. (Rule 36.22.1001)

### **Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: None anticipated.

High erosion potential: no high erosion potential, moderate cut, up to 9.8' and small fill, required.

Loss of soil productivity: No, location will be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: Large, 400'X450' location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is grassland.

Conflict with existing land use/values Slight

Mitigation

   Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

   Exception location requested

X Stockpile topsoil

   Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

X Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

   Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

   Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Access will be over existing county road, #120 and private surface road. Will construct about 3200 feet of new access road into this location off the existing road. Drilling fluids and completion fluids will be hauled to a commercial disposal. Oil based invert drilling fluids will be recycled. Solids will be allowed to dry in the lined cuttings pit. When dry the cuttings will be mixed with subsoil clays in the lined pit. The pit liner will be folded over the top of the solids, spoil dirt to fill pit, top soil spread over pit area, and seeded to land owners specification. No special concerns

### **Health Hazards/Noise**

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: No residences within a 1 mile radius from this well location.

Possibility of H2S: H2S chance is slight from Mississippian Formations.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Triple drilling rig 35 to 40 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

X Proper BOP equipment

   Topographic sound barriers

   H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

   Special equipment/procedures requirements

   Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Adequate surface casing and operational BOP should mitigate any problems. (BOP's 5,000 psig annular, pipe and blind rams) rule 36.22.1014. No concerns.

## Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: None

Conflict with game range/refuge management: no

Threatened or endangered Species: Species identified as threatened by the USFWS are Pallid Sturgeon, Interior Least Tern, Piping Plover and Whooping Crane. Species listed as candidate species are the Greater Sage Grouse and Sprague's Pipit. NH tracker website for this Township and Range lists one (1) species of concern: Whooping Crane.

Mitigation:

Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

☒ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

Other: .

Comments: State-owned grassland. . The Trust Land Management Division  
has jurisdiction.

## Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites: None identified.

## Mitigation

avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

x other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

Other:

Comments: On State grassland. The Trust Land Management Division will

## Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

- Population increase or relocation

Comments: Wildcat well test. No concerns.

## Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well will be drilled to 10,218.' TVD in the Bakken Formation.-single lateral horizontal well test.

## Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur.

I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/does not) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the

human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): \s\Thomas Richmond

(title:) Administrator

Date: August 30, 2013

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Richland County water wells

(subject discussed)

August 30, 2013

(date)

Montana Casadral Website

(Name and Agency)

Ownership, aerial photo, topo.

(subject discussed)

August 30, 2013

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

Others present during inspection: \_\_\_\_\_